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Department of State Departmental Announcement 941

ORGANIZATION TO HANDLE DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION  
WITH CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE EUROPEAN RECOVERY PROGRAM (ERP)

I GENERAL. There is attached a chart (Exhibit A) indicating the organization within the Department designated to handle its activities in connection with Congressional consideration of the European Recovery Program (ERP). Ambassador Douglas is acting as principal witness, other than the Secretary himself, for the Department for the presentation to Congress of ERP. His office is in room 5131A New State, ext. 2881. The functions of the various groups in the Department are set forth herein.

II EUROPEAN RECOVERY PROGRAM (ERP) COMMITTEE.

A Functions. This Committee, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Douglas, will serve as the top strategy group to make all major decisions, subject to the approval of the Under Secretary and the Secretary. Specifically the Committee will make decisions on the following types of problems:

1 What questions should be referred to the Advisory Steering Committee on ERP for interdepartmental clearance.

2 At what point the Department should agree to change its previous position on major questions in the light of current developments.

3 What actions should be taken to enlist the support of key individuals in Congress and outside.

4 What suggestions should be made to the Congressional committees as to the principal witnesses who will be called both within and without the Administration; and the emphasis and timing to be given to the presentation of various aspects of the program.

B Meetings. The Committee meets daily to make a current review of developments.

C Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary of the Committee is the central point of information concerning all activities and will assure that the Committee makes assignments to implement its decisions and that such assignments are being carried out.

III SUBORDINATE GROUPS. Functioning under the general coordination of Ambassador Douglas, assisted by Mr. Bonesteel, are the following groups:

A A Congressional and Public Relations Group. This group under Mr. Bohlen covers the fields of Congressional liaison, presentation, public relations, and press relations. The chart indicates the personnel responsible for each of the specific functions.

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III (continued)

B      A Substantive Testimony Group. This group is under the direction of Mr. Nitze and is divided into subgroups as follows: (See chart for personnel.)

- a. Financial Policy
- b. Country Evaluations
- c. Commodity Studies
- d. Commercial Policy
- e. Organization
- f. Budget and Administration.

C      Legal aspects of the presentation of ERP will be coordinated by Mr. Gross.

D      The ERP Coordinator for the Department is Mr. Thorp. (For further details on this point consult Advisory Steering Committee on ERP document dated Dec. 26, 1947.)

E      Interdepartmental coordination on policy is achieved as necessary through the use of the Interdepartmental Advisory Steering Committee on ERP (Mr. Lovett, Chairman, Mr. Bonesteel, Executive Secretary) and the Interdepartmental Legislative Committee, functions under Mr. Gross.

Attachment